

REMARKS

This responds to the Office Action outstanding against this application. Prior to entry of this amendment, claims 1, 2 and 4-14 and 17 were pending in the application. Upon entry of this amendment, claims 1, 2, 4-14, 17 and 18 are pending in the application, with claims 1, 17 and 18 being the only independent claims.

Claim Numbering

The applicant and the undersigned acknowledge that new claim "15" presented in the amendment entered May 20, 2002 was re-numbered as claim "17" by the Office. This was required due to a mistake by the undersigned attorney.

35 U.S.C. § 112, Second Paragraph

It is respectfully submitted that the amendments presented herein address all of the issues raised by the Examiner with respect to 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. The applicant and the undersigned thank the Examiner for his assistance in this regard.

The Ess and Kindgren Documents - 35 U.S.C. § 103

The Examiner acknowledges that Ess does not disclose drive means to move at least one of the pickup elements in the horizontal direction independently of the other pickup elements. The Examiner states that Kindgren teaches use of drive means to move the pickup elements in the horizontal direction.

Independent Claims 17 and 18

Both claims 17 and 18 recite an apparatus where at least one of the pickup elements moves *relative to the movable device* in the feed direction and the opposite direction, i.e., the movable device moves in the feed direction and the opposite direction and at least one of the pickup elements is shiftable *relative to the movable device* also in the feed direction and the opposite direction. This aspect of applicant's invention is shown in Figure 2 (see disclosure at page 8, first paragraph) and Figure 4f (note that the pickup element 161 and the board held thereby have shifted relative to the other pickup elements and also *relative to the movable device 6* in the direction "K").

Neither Ess nor Kindgren disclose or fairly suggest such an apparatus. The lack of such disclosure in Ess has been described in detail in the previous amendment. With particular reference to Kindgren, it is noted that at col. 3, lines 49-54, Kindgren expressly states that the clamps 27,28 are not shiftable "fore-and-aft" relative to the carriage. In light of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that claims 17 and 18 are in condition for allowance.

Independent Claim 1

It is acknowledged that the claims 27,28 of Kindgren are movable laterally or transversely relative to the feed direction. However, Kindgren does not disclose or suggest that the carriage 30 be equipped with drive means for laterally shifting the clamps 27,28. Instead, the carriage 30 is shifted laterally by drive means while either or both clamps 27,28 is fixed in a lateral position so that the lateral position of the clamp is varied, i.e., the clamps 27,28 are never moved

laterally by drive means relative to the carriage -- the carriage is shifted relative to the clamps 27,28.

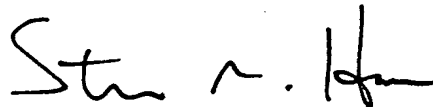
Claim 1 has been amended to recite that the movable device is equipped with drive means (36) and . . . at least one of the pickup elements (16) is movable laterally by said drive means (36) on said movable device It is respectfully submitted that Kindgren does not disclose or fairly suggest this arrangement where the movable device is equipped with drive means that move at least one of the pickup elements laterally on the movable device. As such, claim 1 and the claims that depend thereon are also submitted to be in condition for allowance.

Conclusion

It is respectfully submitted that all of the claims are allowable and that the application meets all other statutory requirements. A formal Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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Encl: Version with Markings to Show Changes Made

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE CLAIMS

Claims 1, 4, 5 and 17 have been amended as follows:

1. (Three-times amended) A panel sawing machine comprising:
a horizontal table (5) to support at least one panel (30; 3a, 3b) to be cut;
at least one movable device (6; 6a) designed to [push] move the panel along the table in at least one of a feed direction (F; F2) and in a direction (F1; F3) opposite to the feed direction, in such a way as to feed a sawing device (7; 7a) [and/or a rotation device (R)], said sawing device (7; 7a) being designed to cut the panel (30; 3a, 3b) into two or more smaller boards (31; 4a, 4b) in a direction at right angles to the feed direction (F; F2), the movable device (6; 6a) being equipped with drive means (36) and a plurality of pickup elements (16) mounted on the movable device side by side [that] to hold [the] a rear edge of the panel in position while [it] the panel is being sawn, at least one of the pickup elements (16) being [mounted on the movable device (6; 6a) in such a way that] movable laterally by said drive means (36) [can move it] on said movable device independently of the other pickup elements (16) in a [horizontal] direction (H) at right angles to the feed direction (F; F2).

4. (Three-times amended) The machine according to claim [3]2, wherein at least one of the pickup elements[, the one labeled (161),] is mounted on the movable device (6; 6a) in such a way that drive means (38) can move the pickup element in both in directions (K) corresponding to the feed direction (F; F2) and to the direction (F1; F3) opposite to the feed direction (F; F2).

5. (Twice Amended) The machine according to claim 1, wherein the movable device [(6; Sa)] (6; 6a) is equipped with two or more of said pickup elements (16, 161) mounted side by side in a horizontal direction (H) at right angles to the feed direction (F; F2), of which at least one of said two or more pickup elements (16) is mounted on the movable device (6; 6a) in such a way that the pickup element (16) can move in direction (H) at right angles to the feed direction (F; F2), and at least one of said two or more pickup elements (161) is mounted on the movable device (6; 6a) in such a way that drive means (38) can move the pickup element (161) in the feed direction (F; F2) in both directions (K) relative to the movable device itself.

17. (Amended) A panel sawing machine comprising:

a sawing device that cuts in a direction at right angles to a feed direction;

a [horizontal] table [(5)] to support [at least one] a panel [(30; 3a, 3b)] to be cut by the sawing device;

at least one movable device [(6; 6a)] designed to push] that moves the panel along the table in at least one of [a] the feed direction [(F; F2)] and in a direction [(F1; F3)] opposite to the feed direction [, in such a way as] to feed [a] the sawing device; [(7; 7a)] and/or a rotation device (R), said sawing device (7; 7a) being designed to cut the panel (30; 3a, 3b) into two or more smaller boards (31; 4a, 4b) in a direction at right angles to the feed direction (F; F2), the movable device (6; 6a) being equipped with]

drive means connected to said at least one movable device;

a plurality of pickup elements [(16)] mounted side by side on said movable

device to [that] hold [the rear edge of] the panel in position while [it] the panel is [being] sawn, at least one of the pickup elements [(16) being mounted on the movable device (6; 6a) in such a way that] being movable by said drive means [(36) can move it] independently of the other pickup elements [(16)] in a [horizontal] direction [(H)] at right angles to the feed direction [(F; F2)], and at least one of the pickup elements [, being mounted on the movable device (6; 6a) in such a way that] being movable by said drive means [(38) can move said pickup element] in both [in directions (K) corresponding to] the feed direction [(F; F2)] and [to] the direction [(F1; F3)] opposite to the feed direction [(F; F2)] relative to the movable device [(6; 6a)].

New claim 18 have been presented as follows:

18. A panel sawing machine comprising:

a sawing device that cuts in a direction transverse to a feed direction;

a table that supports a panel to be cut by the sawing device;

at least one movable device that moves relative to the table in a feed direction and an opposite direction that is opposite to the feed direction;

a plurality of pickup elements mounted side by side on said movable device, said pickup elements adapted to grip the panel supported on the table so that said panel moves with said movable device when said movable device moves in said feed direction and said opposite direction, at least one of said pickup elements movable relative to said movable device in both said feed direction and said opposite direction.